Food and Agriculture
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United Nations

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT
ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Mountain Partnership

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MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, 2023

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Women in the main square outside the Illariy workshop in Tolconi, Peru
©Michelle Geringer

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Mountains and the coastline of Bolivia
(Plurinational State of)
©Carlo Prevosti

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT

Rosalaura Romeo
©Hal Williams Photography

The year 2022 kicked off with a sense of renewal and excitement as celebrations for the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development took place. Members around the world marked this year with more than 60 events, organized to discuss national and collective approaches to conserving mountain ecosystems and highlight how mountains matter, for people and the planet.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) facilitated observance of the International Year through a communication campaign and the establishment of an Open-ended Scientific Committee to produce scientifically sound information and increase knowledge about the main challenges facing mountains.

As the COVID-19 pandemic slowly retreated, we at the Mountain Partnership (MP) took on new challenges and resumed in-person meetings, enjoying face-to-face interactions and the discussions that emerged from these. The highlight of the year was the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting, when more than 200 members gathered in Aspen, in the United States of America. The focus was on advocating for bringing mountain-related issues to the fore, and to the centre of relevant international processes, as well as for action on the ground. Delegates also elected a new Steering Committee for the Mountain Partnership, updated several of the Mountain Partnership's strategy documents, and endorsed the Aspen Declaration.

Climate action was a priority area for the MP as it supported governments and institutions in championing mountains within international frameworks and beyond, proposing solutions to reduce vulnerability in these fragile regions. The importance of promoting a science-policy interface, transboundary cooperation, strong alliances and leadership were among the messages conveyed at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27) mountain side events, held in November.

Mountain ecosystems face growing threats due to climate change and human activities and are in need of urgent restoration support. Building on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, MP members worked at several levels to ensure that data sharing, nature-based approaches, adaptation and mitigation policies and mobilization of funding for mountains remain high on the global agenda. In December, at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15), a mountain flagship restoration project was approved to protect mountain landscapes in Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Serbia and Uganda, through collaboration between MPS and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Promoting sustainable mountain food systems and resilient livelihoods continues to be the driving aim of many of the Secretariat's projects. Five mountain producer organizations and institutions in Ethiopia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia were selected to receive grants through the Mountain Facility, a financing mechanism operated by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to respond to members' requests and needs with specific grants. Meanwhile, "Enhancing agri-food value chains to increase resilience of mountain communities" – an initiative of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) and Slow Food International – announced the launch of a new grant mechanism called the "Business Incubator and Accelerator for Mountains and Islands". The previous phase of the initiative was implemented in Guatemala, Lesotho, Nepal and Rwanda in 2020–2022, and the next phase will be implemented in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines and Uganda starting in March 2023.

International Mountain Day 2022 placed the spotlight on women as key agents for change. Through social media, videos, a publication and media articles published worldwide, a communication campaign for the event highlighted women's role as primary managers of mountain resources and custodians of local culture. To mark the day itself, a high-level event took place at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, with key remarks made by FAO Director-General QU Dongyu. A fashion show staged as part of the event showcased eye-catching creations by Haitian-Italian fashion designer and Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador Stella Jean, placing creativity and diversity at centre stage. On the same day, a new MPS initiative was launched – Fashion for Fragile Ecosystems. This aims to improve the livelihoods of mountain and island communities around the world, while ensuring the protection of their environments by linking cultural heritage and traditional design with ethical, contemporary fashion.

As we move ahead in 2023, I would like to see the MP embrace the many mountain-related global challenges with a renewed sense of purpose. The recently proclaimed Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 can provide a framework for efforts in this direction. Above all, I believe it is the unwavering commitment of our diverse membership that will continue to make the difference for mountains and mountain peoples.

Rosalaura Romeo
Interim Coordinator,
Mountain Partnership Secretariat

The United Nations International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

Jyrgalan valley, Kyrgyzstan
©Nurdan Esenbekov

> “The International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 is an opportunity to place the sustainability and resilience of mountain ecosystems and communities at the heart of international processes, policies and investments within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

At the proposal of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, and with the backing of 94 governments, 2022 was officially declared the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development (IYM2022) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2021. The MP was invited to facilitate observance of the International Year to raise awareness of the role of mountains and mountain people on our planet, and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Governments, United Nations (UN) organizations, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector responded to the call to catalyse action and investments aimed at building the resilience of mountain communities and ecosystems, hosting more than 60 events between them.

To mark the official opening of IYM2022, the MPS and the Government of Kyrgyzstan convened a high-level online celebration on 28 April 2022. Taking the theme “Mountains Matter: For people and the planet”, the event featured a series of statements made by representatives of governments and organizations, including Andorra, Bhutan, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Switzerland, Uganda, the State of Colorado (United States of America), FAO, the Green Climate Fund, and UNDP.

More than 90 scientists from 56 organizations in 28 countries volunteered their time to participate in the Open-ended Scientific Committee for IYM2022. During the course of five meetings in 2022, the Committee successfully produced a set of key messages to increase knowledge about the main challenges facing mountain people and environments and to promote investments in mountain areas. These messages are being translated into a series of policy briefs on the most pertinent topics, ranging from climate change and ecosystem restoration to data monitoring and sustainable tourism. As of December 2022, the Committee had published seven policy briefs, with several more due to be published in 2023.

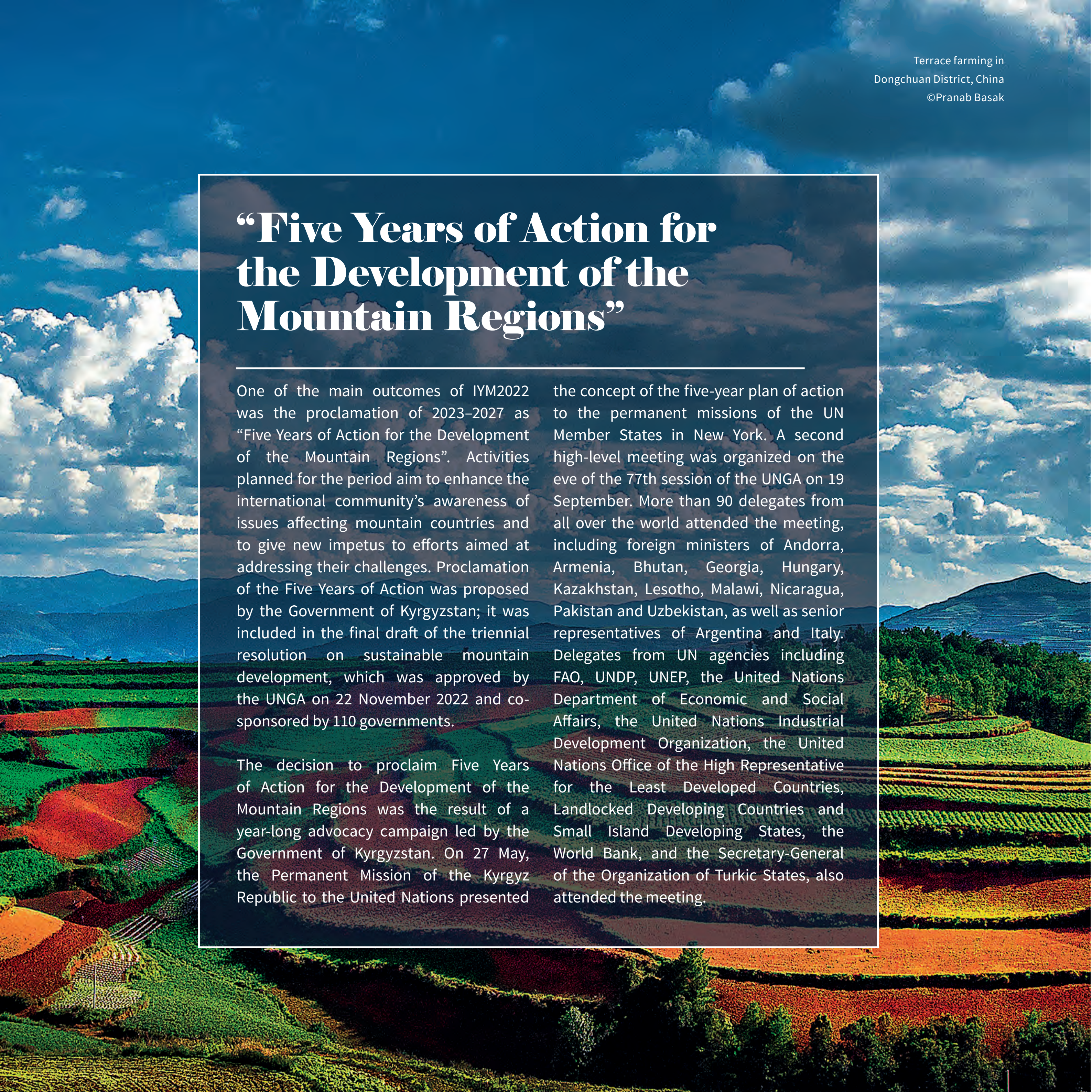
The success of the Open-ended Scientific Committee, in terms of fostering collaboration among diverse mountain scientists and strengthening the mountain science-policy dialogue, is evidence of the need for such a body moving forward.

The MPS developed a communication plan and brand strategy, with guidelines to support all stakeholders for activities and events related to IYM2022. A logo and slogan were made available in several languages on a dedicated Trello board, with an editable version available for developing additional language versions. Around the world, governments and organizations planning mountain events in 2022 were invited to include a contribution to the International Year in their activities, and to officially register their meetings on a dedicated landing page on the MP website. These materials were all part of the communication campaign led by the MPS to promote IYM2022.

MOUNTAINS 2022
International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

Left: Group of farmers in the Bolivian Andes
©Ana Maria Vela Lostaunau

Peruvian woman weaving poncho
©Petra Dilthey



Terrace farming in
Dongchuan District, China
©Pranab Basak

"Five Years of Action for the Development of the Mountain Regions"

One of the main outcomes of IYM2022 was the proclamation of 2023–2027 as "Five Years of Action for the Development of the Mountain Regions". Activities planned for the period aim to enhance the international community's awareness of issues affecting mountain countries and to give new impetus to efforts aimed at addressing their challenges. Proclamation of the Five Years of Action was proposed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan; it was included in the final draft of the triennial resolution on sustainable mountain development, which was approved by the UNGA on 22 November 2022 and co-sponsored by 110 governments.

The decision to proclaim Five Years of Action for the Development of the Mountain Regions was the result of a year-long advocacy campaign led by the Government of Kyrgyzstan. On 27 May, the Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations presented the concept of the five-year plan of action to the permanent missions of the UN Member States in New York. A second high-level meeting was organized on the eve of the 77th session of the UNGA on 19 September. More than 90 delegates from all over the world attended the meeting, including foreign ministers of Andorra, Armenia, Bhutan, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, as well as senior representatives of Argentina and Italy. Delegates from UN agencies including FAO, UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the World Bank, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of Turkic States, also attended the meeting.

UN Secretary-General reports on sustainable mountain development

Working in close consultation with FAO colleagues at its Rome headquarters and at the Liaison Office in New York, the MPS compiled inputs from governments, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the 2022 triennial report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development. This provides an overview of the results, impacts and changes achieved through action on climate change, ecosystem restoration and protection, economies and livelihoods, and governance since the last report in 2019. The report was presented and adopted at the 77th session of the UNGA.

UN General Assembly approves a resolution on mountains

The MPS has produced a policy note that calls on Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to ensure that mountains are explicitly included in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and in all CBD processes. The document complements the two policy briefs coordinated by UNEP, in collaboration with GRID-Arendal, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment and the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI): *Elevating mountains in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* (2019) and *Elevating mountains in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework 2.0* (2020).

United Nations General Assembly
© Kena Betancour

Countries celebrate IYM2022 at national level

The Government of Nepal led IYM2022 celebrations by holding the first event to mark this special year. A regional policy dialogue on sustainable mountain solutions was held on 23 March. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba. From 20–21 September, national governments, international agencies and MP members came together in Nepal for the Mustang Advocacy Summit. The summit delegates later signed the Mustang Declaration, which calls for transformative mountain development solutions.

The Government of Malawi organized a national launch event for IYM2022 on 3 June, with the participation of the Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change and the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture. Celebrations of IYM2022 continued throughout the year, culminating in International Mountain Day activities held in Zomba City at the foot of Zomba Mountain. Stakeholders of all ages gathered on Zomba Mountain for a tree planting ceremony.

MOUNTAINS 2022
Mountains Matter for people and the planet
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT 2022
Theme: "Mountains Matter: for people and the planet"

Top: IYM2022 celebration in Malawi
©Macpherson Nthara

Minister at the IYM launching pavilions, Malawi
© Macpherson Nthara

Delivering with pace and scale in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

In December 2022, as a part of celebrations for International Mountain Day and IYM2022, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) launched its Strategy 2030, which sets out a new vision and mission for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region. The strategy will be put into action through an operationalized Medium Term Action Plan for 2023–2026. ICIMOD's Strategy 2030 raises the Centre's ambitions to meet the immense challenges in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region presented by the triple planetary crises – biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change. The strategy articulates a new vision: to work towards a greener, more inclusive, climate-resilient HKH, delivered through a new mission: to build and share knowledge that enables regional policy and action, while attracting investment for implementation.

Girls in remote Dolpa district, Nepal
©Ganesh Magar

Grazing area for lamas and alpacas, Peru
©Petra Dilthey

Mainstreaming mountains in International Years

Mountains will continue to be on the agenda of other upcoming UN International Years. In 2022, the UNGA proclaimed two more International Years for Mountain Partnership members to keep on their radar: the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026. Also coming up is the International Year of Camelids 2024, celebrating animals that represent an important livelihood source for millions of mountain households.

Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership

The sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership was convened in Aspen, United States of America, from 27–29 September 2022, with more than 200 participants.

The meeting discussed the agenda for the Mountain Partnership going forward, and specifically its role in advocating for bringing mountain-related issues to the fore of relevant international processes, as well as for action on the ground.

The meeting was organized around plenary sessions that included panel discussions and special presentations, supplemented by a wide range of side events. It elected a new Steering Committee for the MP, updated the MP's strategy documents, and endorsed the Aspen Declaration. The meeting was co-hosted by the MP, together with the State of Colorado, the City of Aspen, and the Aspen International Mountain Foundation.

The outcome document of the sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership – the Aspen Declaration – promotes cooperation among mountain countries on a wide range of issues, including the economy, social development, the environment, culture, science and education, and the achievement of the SDGs.

Participants at the sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership
©Brittany Mumma

Welcoming new Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassadors

The Mountain Partnership appointed two new Goodwill Ambassadors during the Global Meeting: Luis Benitez and Nikki Santos.

Luis Benitez is the Vice President for Government Affairs and Global Impact at VF Corporation, a USD 23 billion holding company that includes some of the outdoor industry's most iconic brands. Luis has dedicated his career to transforming the outdoor industry into a powerful force for economic development, conservation and stewardship, education and wellness. As Goodwill Ambassador, Luis is committed to focusing on connecting people with the outdoors, helping to create a more equitable and sustainable world.

Nikki Santos is a member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe in the United States of America and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute. As an indigenous woman, mother and vessel of her ancestors, Nikki aims to support the mountain agenda and uplift Indigenous Peoples' culture and ways of life in her new role as Goodwill Ambassador.

> “Indigenous ways of knowing and the culture of Indigenous Peoples and traditional mountain communities play a central role in sustainable mountain development.”

Nikki Santos
Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador

Goodwill Ambassador
Luis Benitez
Goodwill Ambassador
Nikki Pitre

> “The outdoor industry can play a key role in addressing environmental issues and investments to advance holistic change in mountain communities.”

Luis Benitez
Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador

New Mountain Partnership
Goodwill Ambassadors
©Hal Williams Photography

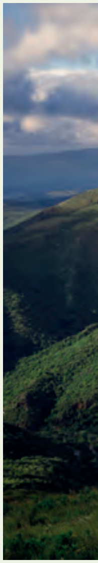
High-level Political Forum examines pathways for accelerated action in mountains

On 7 July, MP members held a virtual event on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2022, focused on accelerating progress towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable mountain development. The event was organized by the Permanent Missions of Andorra and was co-sponsored by Bhutan, Italy, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Peru, Spain and Uganda as a contribution to IYM2022.

General view of the room during High-level Political Forum 2022 Special Event
©FAO/Kena Betancour

Andorra and UNWTO host congress on snow and mountain tourism

Building on the momentum of 2021's focus on sustainable mountain tourism, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), together with the Government of Andorra, hosted the 11th World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism from 23–25 March 2022. The congress centred around solutions for tourism recovery



Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General, UNWTO speaks at 11th World Congress on Snow and Mountain
©UNWTO

from the COVID-19 pandemic, while guaranteeing the health and well-being of mountain areas. Together with UNWTO, the MPS held a special session on outcomes of the 2021 study *Mountain tourism – Towards a more sustainable path*, which was jointly developed by FAO, MPS and UNWTO.

In 2022, the MPS collaborated with UNWTO on a publication that fills existing knowledge gaps about the extent and volume of mountain tourism and its importance, globally and in the different regions. The report was published in April 2023.

11è CONGR
DE TURISME DE
23 · 25 març 2022 · Canil
www.mountainlikers.

Argentina's national mountain committee announces 2022 action plan

Mountain landscape in Argentina
©Odone Ezequiel

The Committee for the Sustainable Development of the Mountain Regions of the Argentine Republic's Operational Action Plan 2022 is the result of a participatory process involving representatives of all the organizations involved in the committee. The document is designed to show the socioecological context of Argentina's mountain areas, advances in policies and planning instruments, objectives, strategies, actions and the main actors involved. Its objective is to guide the planning of strategies and actions within the framework of the national territory, and promote knowledge management, capacity building and awareness of the value of mountains for sustainable and resilient development.

> “We can show the world that tourism stands united, that our sector can offer answers and generate the trust that we all need in such difficult times.”
>
> **Zurab Pololikashvili**
> Secretary-General, UNWTO

Carpathian Convention adopts two ministerial declarations

The Carpathian Convention is a subregional treaty to foster the sustainable development and protection of the Carpathian region. It was signed in May 2003 by seven Carpathian States (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine). The Carpathian Convention Ministerial Conference was held from 21–22 November 2022 in Rzeszów, Poland to address the region's most pressing challenges. Presenting the joint vision and commitment to support a sustainable future for the whole Carpathian region, two ministerial declarations were adopted: the first on Carpathian Commitments for implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the Carpathian level, and the second on the impact of the war in Ukraine on the environment and the need for cooperation and assistance, which mandates engagement in an assistance process currently being consulted with the Parties and stakeholders.

CARPATHIAN MINISTERIAL CON
21 - 22 November 2022
Rzeszów, Poland
Gabriela Szuba
Małgorzata Golińska

Carpathian ministerial conference
©Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Canadian Mountain Network advocates for inclusion of indigenous knowledge

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) released a series of reports highlighting its approach to interweaving indigenous and western knowledge systems in ways that align with the overarching spirit and intent of the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The first report *Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through the Canadian Mountain Network* demonstrates CMN's collective impact on the SDGs. The second report *Reconciliation through research: Braiding indigenous and western knowledge systems for the wellbeing of mountain people, places, and beyond* demonstrates CMN's work towards achieving the objectives of both the SDGs and UNDRIP. A discussion paper further illustrates how linking indigenous knowledge and science can accelerate a nation's capacity to deliver on international commitments to indigenous rights and sustainable development, in mountain regions and beyond.

Pemberton, Canada
©Sajad Harati

Adaptation at Altitude advocates for transboundary mountain solutions

Working together across borders, supported by science, can enable long-term adaptation actions in transboundary mountain ecosystems. The Swiss-funded Adaptation at Altitude (A@A) programme focuses, *inter alia*, on strengthening regional cooperation and fostering interregional exchange.

This year, A@A produced the brief *Leave no mountain behind: Disaster risk reduction for all*. Produced in collaboration with the aim of shedding light on how such vulnerabilities, coupled with the cascading and compounding hazards that frequently occur in mountains, can have detrimental impacts on mountain communities. The brief explores how development failures and climate change are further increasing the likelihood of disasters in mountains. It considers the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the light of mountain hazards, while showcasing six case studies from the Adaptation at Altitude Solutions Portal.

UNEP published two new booklets, entitled *Mountains ADAPT*, featuring 27

Adaptation at Altitude regional meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
©ARCOS

concrete solutions for climate change adaptation in the mountains of East Africa and the South Caucasus. The solutions – many of which are nature-based – seek to diversify livelihoods and build new income opportunities.

Working together with UNEP, the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat and partner states, with support from the Albertine Rift Conservation Society, have agreed to fast-track the establishment of the EAC Mountains Stakeholder Platform. The aim is to coordinate regional efforts in mountain ecosystems governance and support a sustainable mountain development agenda, including mainstreaming in relevant EAC policies and strategies.

Meanwhile, in the South Caucasus, Sustainable Caucasus and UNEP have organized regional adaptation dialogue meetings to promote exchange across the region. In the Andes and the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development are leading on respective regional processes.

To foster interregional exchange and action learning between these regions, A@A hosted the Mountains CONNECT workshop in Vienna and launched a new online space offering videos and material about various dimensions of mountain range governance.

POOL DEPTH
EAST AFRICA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL DIALOGUE
Taking Action in Mountains
Dar es Salaam, 30th March 2022
UN
ARCOS NETWORK
ADAPTATION AT ALTITUDE
MOUNTAINS 2022
International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

Advocacy for mountains

The following events were held in 2022, with MPS support, to advocate for mountain causes and people:

New frontiers of sustainable tourism – Sustainable tourism in mountains as a catalyst for development and resilience (Italian Pavilion, Expo Dubai; 10 January)
MP Steering Committee meeting (virtual; 13 January)
First IYM2022 Open-ended Scientific Committee meeting (virtual; 25 January)
The taste of sustainability: A virtual coffee on agritourism, food and better life (virtual; 3 March)
Second IYM2022 Open-ended Scientific Committee meeting (virtual; 10 March)
Southern African Mountain Conference (virtual; 14 March)
66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women side event - Palau, "Mountains and sustainable tourism in Small Island Developing States" (virtual; 16 March)
11th World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism (Andorra; 23 March)
MP Steering Committee meeting (virtual; 30 March)
Third IYM2022 Open-ended Scientific Committee meeting (virtual; 29 April)
Expert group meeting to prepare for the thematic review of SDG 15 ahead of the High-level Political Forum 2022 (virtual; 17–18 May)
Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions high-level meeting (New York; 24 May)
International Mountain Panorama Conference (Zakopane, Poland; 9 June)
MP Steering Committee meeting (virtual; 21 June)
IPROMO (Pieve Tesino and Ormea, Italy; 27 June–11 July)
High-level Political Forum side event "Mountains and sustainable development: A pathway for accelerating action" (virtual; 7 July)
Fourth IYM2022 Open-ended Scientific Committee meeting (virtual; 12 July)
MP Steering Committee meeting (virtual; 30 August)
High-level Meeting on Sustainable Mountain Development (New York, 19 September)
Terra Madre Salone del Gusto (Turin, Italy; 22–26 September 2022)

Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (Aspen, USA; 26–29 September)
MP Steering Committee meeting (Aspen, USA; 29 September)
Fifth IYM2022 Open-ended Scientific Committee meeting (virtual; 28 October)
United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 27) side events (Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt; 6–19 November)
GROW Agrobiodiversity in a Changing Climate (virtual; 15–25 November)
MP Steering Committee meeting (virtual; 1 December)
High-level event/fashion show for International Mountain Day (FAO, Rome; 9 December)
High-level event for International Mountain Day (Vatican City; 12 December)
United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) side events (Montreal, Canada; 7–19 December)

Sixth Mountain Partnership Global Meeting
©Hal Williams Photography

El Cocuy, Colombia
©FAO/Francisco Nieto

Joining forces to address climate action in mountains

Climate action was a top priority throughout the year, as the MPS joined forces with partners to champion mountains within international frameworks and propose solutions to reduce vulnerability in these fragile regions. The MPS supported governments and institutions in the run-up to COP 27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

On the ground, MP members responded to the urgent needs of mountain areas to adapt to and protect themselves against the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Cryosphere Pavilion at COP27
©Udayan Mishra/ICIMOD

CRYOSPHERE PAVI
Moving mountains

A strong mountain presence at COP 27

The MPS supported the organization of three side events. On 9 November, the Cryosphere Pavilion event: “Leading mountain sustainability through innovation” discussed how to build synergies among different stakeholders to co-develop and implement solutions for tackling challenges related to climate change in mountain regions. Speakers included representatives from Permian Global, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat and Asociación Oikos.

On 11 November, another event: “IPCC Cross-Chapter 5: Mountains – sharing knowledge to promote adaptation initiatives in mountains” addressed how scientific evidence can be used to strengthen the participation of mountain people in national and international policy processes. Speakers included representatives from the Mountain Research Initiative, The Mountain Institute, Albertine Rift Conservation Society, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre, and the International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development.

The final side event on 17 November: “Bringing mountains to the forefront by leveraging the International Year of Mountains 2022” considered the urgency of the environmental and climate crisis in mountainous regions. The session discussed how to bring mountains to the forefront of international processes, and to plenary discussions of future COPs. Speakers included representatives from the Governments of Andorra, Argentina, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Nepal and Peru, and from WMO.

United Nations
Climate Change
COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022

Mountain Partnership side event at COP 27
©Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Mountains included in the Nairobi Work Programme

The 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took place from 6 to 16 June 2022, in Bonn, Germany. SBSTA decided that mountains should be included as an additional thematic area for the Nairobi Work Programme. During COP 27, mountains were included in a key draft decision recommended by SBSTA on "Matters relating to science and review: Research and systemic observation", for consideration and adoption by the COP.

Installation of mass balance stakes on
Rikha Samba Glacier, Nepal
©Jakob Steiner

Andorra hosts ministerial meeting on mountains at COP 27

With the aim of promoting climate action in mountainous regions and finding a common message to advocate for the conservation of mountain ecosystems at international level, the Government of Andorra brought together representatives of 15 MP member governments on 17 November, during COP 27. Participants also included the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition of the United Nations, and UNEP.

Several key actions were considered to strengthen a common commitment to mountain issues. The meeting highlighted the diversity and vulnerability of mountain people and ecosystems, the strong links with water and biodiversity, the importance of regional cooperation, and the urgency of raising the visibility of mountains on the global political agenda.

Vall del Madriu, Andorra
© Andorra Turisme, SAU

Responding to floods in Pakistan

Between June and August 2022, Pakistan was hit by devastating floods affecting 33 million people across the country, including 200 000 in the high mountain areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral (GBC). The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), together with other agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network, international aid agencies and the Government of Pakistan, mobilized to provide humanitarian relief and support early recovery and longer-term reconstruction. AKAH evacuated over 8 000 people from affected areas and provided food and non-food relief to 10 000 people. To support early recovery, AKAH is building eco-friendly lightweight prefabricated homes for more than 300 displaced families and repairing 200 homes in Sindh and GBC. It has assessed and restored 52 drinking water supply systems and is working to restore flood mitigation infrastructure in GBC.

AKAH responding to Pakistan floods- Ghizer
©Aga Khan Agency for Habitat

Andean Mountain Initiative hosts annual meeting

The Andean Mountain Initiative (IAM) is a regional platform formed by the seven Andean countries (Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia), working together for their mountains. The annual meeting of IAM included the regular session, a collaborative workshop and a public event. The regular session adopted a “Call to Action”, which seeks to promote adaptation to climate change and recognizes water security as a regional challenge. The workshop aimed to share the progress of the IAM Working Groups and collect feedback from members. The public event discussed public policies and governance tools related to mountain areas, and analysed common challenges in the Andean region.

Mountain landscape of the Peruvian Andes
©Manuel R. Guariguata

Mountain Research Initiative positions mountains on the climate agenda

In 2022, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) continued its efforts to highlight mountains on the climate and other global policy agendas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its Sixth Assessment, including MRI member contributions to its Cross-chapter paper on mountains. Members also gave important inputs at key events, including the International Mountain Conference in Innsbruck, Austria; UNFCCC COP 27; and CBD COP 15. The network successfully hosted two synthesis workshops on mapping mountain vegetation and building a network to study carbon dynamics in the Andes. The MRI flagship activity GEO Mountains released two substantial mountain data inventories and published noteworthy papers on human populations and climate changes' elevational patterns in mountains.

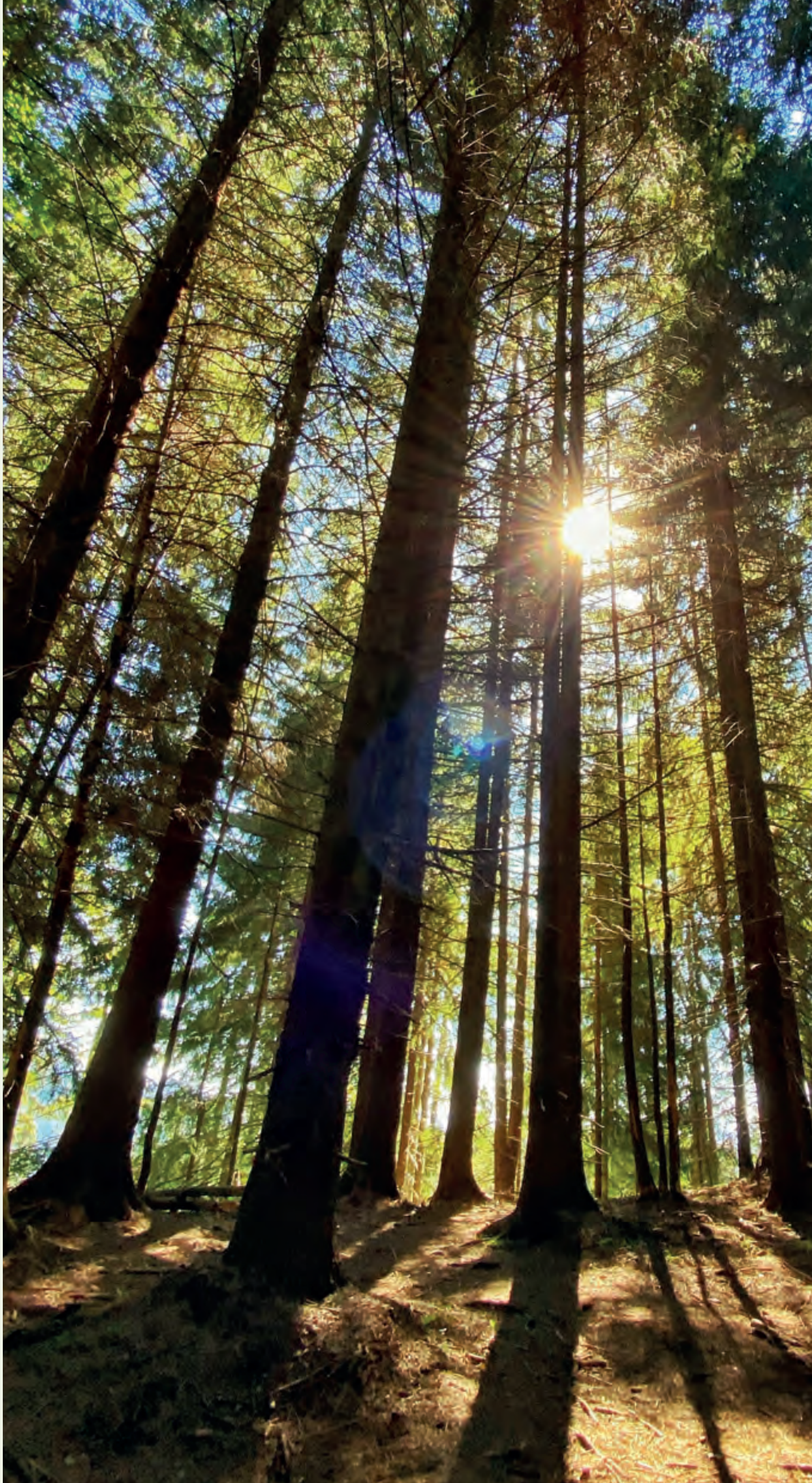
MRI treelines synthesis workshop
©Michael Maroschek

A Tolconi woman teaching
her daughter to knit
©Petra Dilthey

Conserving Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services

The Carpathian Mountains are home to many of Europe's most extensive forest areas, including the last large areas of virgin and old-growth forests on the continent. The eighth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) met from 10–12 October in Levice, Slovakia to discuss finalizing the inventory of virgin and old-growth forests in the Carpathians, in order to support protection of these pristine forests. Another important WG Forest initiative involves developing the assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services. The results aim to shape policy instruments for addressing climate change issues in the region.

Tatra chamois, Poland
©Wojciech Gil



Innovation challenge seeks solutions to extreme weather events

Andorra created a Mountain Living Lab to facilitate the adaptation of innovation, new technology and change management solutions to tackle climate change challenges. The framework will enable better cooperation between different stakeholders in adopting new solutions. Andorra Research + Innovation, together with PLANETech, the Climate Technology Innovation Cluster of the Israel Institute of Innovation, and the Mountain Partnership launched an international innovation challenge for extreme events in mountain areas to find new technologies and solutions that could help to anticipate, manage and increase mountain communities' resilience to extreme weather events. The winner of the challenge will implement a pilot project in Andorra to test the technology or solution in 2023.

Previous page: Carpathian forest
©Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Mountain hut in the snow, Andorra
©Andorra Turisme, SAU

Restoring mountain biodiversity and ecosystems

Amanita rubromarginata
©Austin Smith

Biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution are severely and increasingly affecting mountain livelihoods and ecosystems. The MPS worked with members to ensure more international visibility regarding the contribution made by resilient mountain ecosystems and communities to a more sustainable world.

In December, nations from around the world adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15). The plan includes concrete measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including placing 30 percent of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans, and 30 percent of degraded ecosystems, under protection by 2030.

A high-level side event took place during COP 15: "Celebrating International Year of Mountains – ensuring mountain biodiversity protection within the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implementation". The event provided an opportunity for discussions between mountain country representatives on the need for mountains' protection in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its implementation, as well as the "Five Years of Action for the Development of the Mountain Regions 2023–2027". The side event was organized by UNEP, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Albertine Rift Conservation Society, the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion, the Government of Poland, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, the Mountain Research Initiative, FAO and the MPS.

Mountain gorilla, Uganda
©Julie Hull

UN recognizes multi-country effort to protect mountain ecosystems

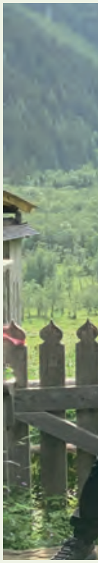
At COP 15, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, together with FAO and UNEP as the custodian agencies, and with the support of partners, hosted Restoration Day on 13 December. In the day's opening session, the Multi-Country Flagship on Ecosystem Restoration in Mountain Regions was announced as one of the first ten World Restoration Flagships of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The flagship is coordinated by UNEP, the Carpathian Convention and the MPS. The effort, which includes locations in Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Serbia and Uganda, demonstrates how initiatives in three different regions share common challenges and are adopting restoration work to strengthen and protect their unique mountain ecosystems and support local communities. The flagship conveys the importance of integrating traditional and scientific knowledge and of putting local communities at the centre of restoration efforts.

Conserving snow leopards and their habitat

The Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) brings together ministerial representatives of all 12 snow leopard range countries to set out priorities for conservation of the species and its habitat. UNEP is a GSLEP observer member, and through its Luxembourg-funded flagship programme Vanishing Treasures (VT), it played a prominent role in the 2022 GSLEP meeting. The VT programme led a plenary session on the impacts of climate change on snow leopard conservation, urging all ministerial representatives to consider these in national planning efforts. By subscribing to the meeting's final resolution, all range countries supported the inclusion of climate impacts in national snow leopard conservation planning, essentially institutionalizing the concepts of ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-smart conservation in the GSLEP framework.

Conventions renew cooperation for mountain biodiversity

Three conventions committed to biodiversity protection – the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention – have renewed the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This will enhance synergies and common activities for implementation of the new framework, guiding effective mountain



biodiversity protection in the Alpine and Carpathian regions, and supporting experience and knowledge sharing with other mountain regions of the world.

Top: Study visit of the Delegation of the Hindu Kush Himalaya to the Alps
©Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Left: Snow leopard, Kyrgyzstan
©Vladislav

Towards waste-free mountains

GRID-Arendal, the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation, the Mountain Research Initiative, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and UNEP joined forces throughout IYM2022 to draw attention to the threats posed by increasing waste, in particular plastic waste, to mountain ecosystems and communities. Joint activities included developing a policy brief to explore the growing plastic waste problem in mountains, as well as developing and disseminating concrete solutions to tackle it. A side event “Keeping our mountains waste-free” was organized during the sixth Global Meeting of the MP. Outreach and awareness-raising materials were developed and disseminated, such as a story map entitled *Plastic waste on the peak,* featuring a large number of success stories from around the world.

Plastic bottles at scrapyard in Kathmandu
©Tina Schoolmeester

Khinalig nominated as UNESCO World Heritage Site

The village of Khinalig, one of the highest settlements in Europe, has 1 200 residents and is located in the Caucasus Mountains in Azerbaijan. In 2022, the Government of Azerbaijan funded the restoration of 16 of 160 traditional houses. Khinalig is rich in tangible and intangible heritage, ranging from the local transhumance lifestyle and surrounding highland pastures to the 200-km seasonal migration route called *Koch Yol* and lowland pastures. For this reason, the village was proposed for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2022. A large-scale research study, conducted in the village as part of the UNESCO nomination file, will be used for the next development project aimed at promoting the village's cultural values and well-being.

Khinalig, Azerbaijan
©Fagan Tahirli

Boosting mountain producers' livelihoods

Woman tilling a field in Nepal
©Sitaram Magar

Rural mountain communities in developing countries are among the world's poorest and most marginalized people. They are cut off from infrastructure and markets, and the mountain ecosystems they call home are fragile and under threat from climate change and degradation. Yet mountain people – especially mountain women – are the guardians of extraordinary ancestral knowledge.

The MPS works with smallholder producers in developing countries to create enterprises, enhance their marketing skills and boost livelihoods by improving the value chains of mountain products such as organic food, textiles and tourism services.

> “We aim to improve small, rural communities' livelihoods while protecting mountain environments and ensuring producers' fair compensation.”

Giorgio Grussu
Project Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Strengthening the value chains of mountain products

Since 2020, UNDP’s Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP), the MP and Slow Food International have worked together to increase the resilience of mountain communities through the improvement of local mountain economies. The “Enhancing agri-food value chains to increase resilience of mountain communities” initiative has been implemented in Guatemala, Lesotho, Nepal and Rwanda. It aims to strengthen the value chains of high-value mountain products, while building capacity for farmers and producer organizations to promote sustainable mountain products.

Capacity-building activities such as agrobiodiversity mapping, value chain improvement, and participatory guarantee systems have been conducted with 12 producer communities, representing 1 041 farmers, of whom 657 are women. Based on successes to date, in 2022 SGP and the MP announced an expansion of the

Majantja Temong Farmers, Lesotho
©SGP Lesotho

Weaving with different natural Alpaca colours
©Petra Dilthey

collaboration and partnership to cover another phase, which will include ten additional countries. The purpose of this expanded phase is to promote innovative entrepreneurship, improve the resilience of local economies, and boost the livelihoods of mountain and island communities. It will be structured as a Business Incubation and Acceleration programme, targeting value chains that represent the biocultural heritage of communities and generate positive benefits for mountain and island ecosystems.

> “Due to the partnership with GEF SGP and the Mountain Partnership Initiative, my mindset and that of my fellow farmers has changed about the food we produce, eat and sell. We are now even more aware of the dangers of using agrochemicals and we have decided to enhance our focus on producing good, clean and fair food for all.”

Mampho Thulo
Director, Rural Self-Help Development
Association, Lesotho

Announcing "Fashion for Fragile Ecosystems"

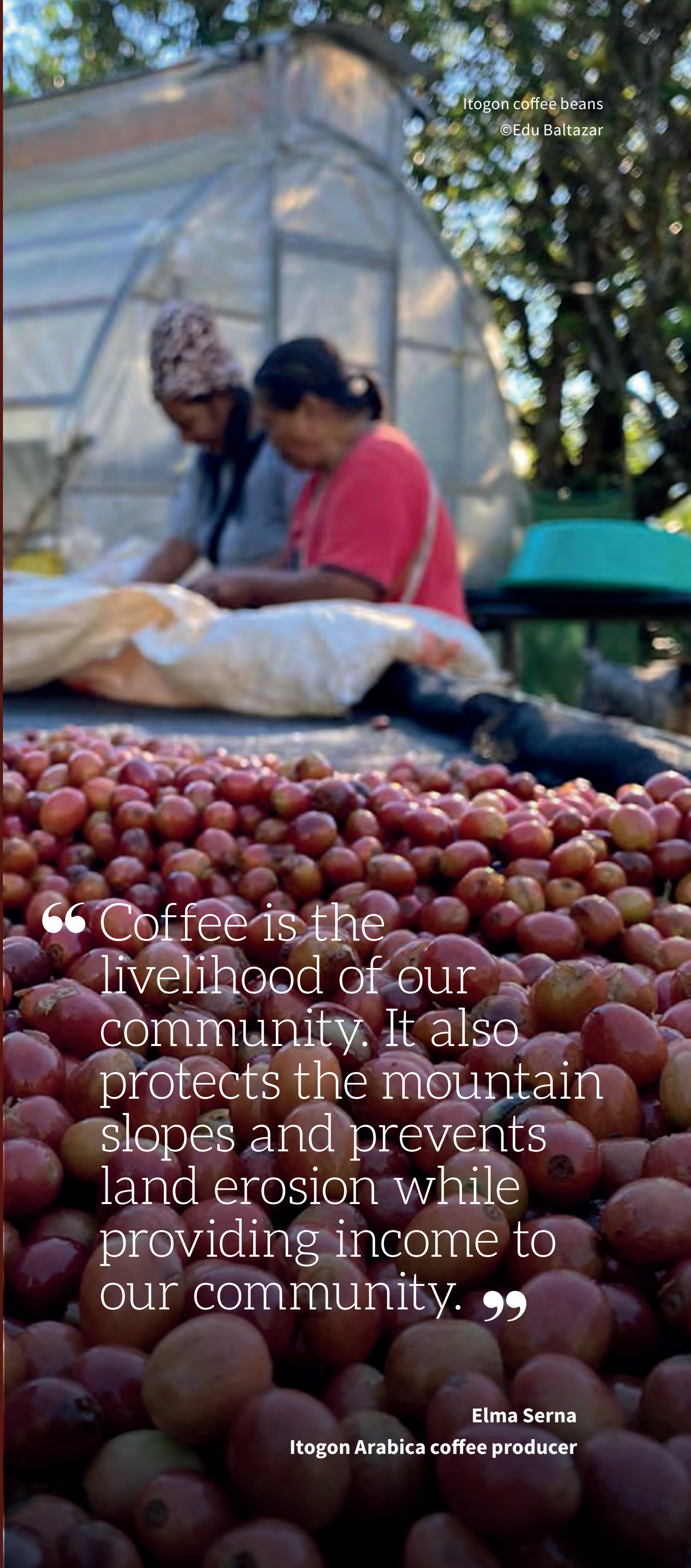
Mountains and islands experience the dual challenges of being fragile ecosystems with vulnerable populations, highly impacted by climate change, natural disasters, economic shocks and marginalization. Small communities of artisans in the remotest mountain areas and the smallest islands around the world are often custodians of naturally circular economies, with the highest quality and the lowest environmental impact. However, their legacy often risks being lost as their isolation, distance from markets and long value chains – involving many intermediaries – do not favour fair compensation to the primary producers.

Launched on International Mountain Day 2022, the MPS initiative "Fashion for Fragile Ecosystems" sets out to improve the livelihoods of mountain and island communities around the world by linking cultural heritage and traditional design with ethical, contemporary fashion. It brings together artists and artisans from the remotest regions with international fashion brands to create lasting change through an equal exchange of skills, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

International Mountain Day high-level event
with a fashion show by Stella Jean
©FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

Coffee improves livelihoods and protects slopes in the Philippines

In the Cordillera mountain range of the Philippines, coffee supports the livelihoods of the indigenous Kankanaey community. Arabica Typica coffee was first introduced in Benguet Province by Spanish colonists in 1875. Today, coffee continues to be grown in the area and has adapted perfectly to the conditions of the Itogon hills. In 2013, producers came together to create the Saddle Hartwell Lumbag Coffee Growers Association, and in 2019, Itogon coffee joined the Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) initiative. Since then, the producers have been able to sell their participatory guarantee system-certified organic coffee at PHP 450–500 per kilogram (USD 8.60–9.60) – a price increase of 41–56 percent. The MPP initiative is an example of how to safeguard indigenous foods while boosting local economies, promoting climate-resilient agriculture and generating more income, in this case for Cordillera's mountain communities.



Itogon coffee beans
©Edu Baltazar

> “Coffee is the livelihood of our community. It also protects the mountain slopes and prevents land erosion while providing income to our community.”

Elma Serna
Itogon Arabica coffee producer

Enhancing mountain labelling in Europe

Territorial labelling is perceived as an extension of product labels to the spatial context to which the specific brand is tied. In the case of mountain products, an optional scheme has been available for European Union (EU) member states since 2012. So far, diverse countries have applied very different implementation approaches. In analysing the place-specific conditions, obstacles, opportunities and impact of various initiatives, research carried out in 2022 by Austria's Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research highlights the complex and long-term preparation of successful initiatives.

Supporting entrepreneurs in Romania's mountain areas

In 2022, Romania's National Agency of the Mountain Area developed specific legislation and launched three mountain investment programmes that will be co-financed from the state budget. The investment programmes aim to support the establishment of milk collection and/or processing centres, sheepfolds, and collection and primary processing centres for berries, mushrooms and/or medicinal and aromatic plants in mountain areas. A total of 165 projects have been selected through the investment programmes: 78 for milk collection and processing; 71 for berries, mushrooms and medicinal plants; and 16 for mountain sheepfolds.

Top right:
Pastoral life in the mountains of Romania
©Dănuț Ungureanu

Mountain panorama in Austria
©Ingrid Machold

Rice cultivation in Chhum Valley, Nepal

Chhum Valley, located in Patarashi Rural Municipality, in Nepal's Karnali region, is the world's highest altitude where cold-resistant rice cultivars are grown. One such local cultivar traditionally grown in this area is *Jumli Marshi*, but cultivation has declined in recent years. In the context of a global increase in both food and environmental crises, there is an urgent need to promote locally-adaptive food production systems that can ensure the food security of mountain people.

ForestAction Nepal facilitated several interactive meetings and discussions on promoting traditional *Marshi* cultivation with farmers, community leaders, local representatives and officials of the Provincial Agriculture Ministry. The main objective of this initiative is to support the provincial government's strategies for developing *Marshi* in this region, and to promote this valley as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

Girls planting rice, Nepal
©Vijay Thapa

Developing mountain tourism in Chile

Through the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO), together with national tourism institutions, Chile continues to further its national plan to develop mountain tourism. The initiative is coordinated by *Transforma Turismo Sustentable*, a national public-private programme. Through different projects, it has trained more than 200 trekking guides in two years and supported public-private programmes and governances in more than 5 mountain destinations. One location with strong potential for nature tourism is in northern Chile, in the mountainous areas of Arica and Parinacota of the Andean Cordillera and Altiplano (high plateau). CORFO is developing a tourism programme with emphasis on the search for sustainable, responsible tourism led by local actors. Its focus is to strengthen livelihoods, upgrade proposals for tourists, promote destinations and improve infrastructure and digital transformation.

Sustainable tourism, Chile
©Sernatur (National Tourism Service)

Women artisans in the Bolivian Andes
©Patricia Breuer Moreno

Women move mountains

Given the key role that mountain women play in the environmental protection and social and economic development of mountain areas, International Mountain Day 2022's theme was chosen as "Women move mountains".

As farmers, market sellers, businesswomen, artisans, entrepreneurs and community leaders, mountain women and girls have the potential to be major agents of change. When rural women have equal opportunities, they become a driving force against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty, and are active in the development of mountain economies.

Governments, organizations and individuals in 46 countries marked International Mountain Day (IMD) with more than 93 events. As the lead UN agency responsible for coordinating observance of IMD, FAO supported partners' events around the world. The MPS held a high-level event at FAO that showcased examples of how the Mountain Partnership Products initiative empowers women-led business to scale-up and strengthen local economies. The event also staged a video and fashion show illustrating the collaboration between the Peruvian women's collective Illiary Threads4Dreams and fashion designer and MP Goodwill Ambassador Stella Jean. A second high-level event in Rome was hosted by the Department of Culture and Education of the Holy See, together with the MPS. It featured a variety of actors, including FAO Director-General QU Dongyu, MP Goodwill Ambassadors, mountaineers and sustainable development experts.

Artisans collaborate with fashion designer Stella Jean in Peru

In 2022, fashion designer and MP Goodwill Ambassador Stella Jean travelled to Tolconi in the Peruvian Andes to work with artisans from women's collective Illiary Threads4Dreams. The women raise alpacas the traditional way, preserving the herd's natural colour variations. However, industry trends prefer white fibre, and the global alpaca market does not value the varied colours of natural alpaca fleece. In addition, due to the many intermediaries in the value chain, the women receive low prices for their raw material.

Through the FAO's Women's Committee and the Italy-funded Mountain Partnership Products initiative, Stella Jean worked with the women in Tolconi to create her newest fashion capsule collection for 2023–2024 using multicoloured Alpaca fibre, combining her knowledge of Italian design with the women's cultural legacy and heritage. These mountain women are now gaining a place in the international market and will produce and profit from the co-designed fashion items. A video on this collaboration was launched on IMD.

Challenges, resilience and collective power of mountain women

To mark this year's edition of International Mountain Day, FAO published a study highlighting the stories and voices of mountain women, with a focus on rural areas and mountain tourism. The publication was produced together with the MPS and the Feminist Hiking Collective, a member of the MP and the Mountain Women of the World network.

Entitled *Mountain women of the world: Challenges, resilience and collective power*, the study is based on in-depth interviews with 313 local mountain women in eight countries - Argentina, Chile, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the United Republic of Tanzania. While the study found that women's work is socially, politically and economically invisible in most countries, it also offers reasons for optimism. Technologies such as the internet are allowing women to organize themselves into so-called 'networks of solidarity', a trend that was accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Mountain women of the world
Challenges, resilience and collective power
Mountain Partnership

Left: Presentation of new design of cardigan
©Michelle Geringer

Mountain women of the world publication
©Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Women move Europe’s mountains

To celebrate International Mountain Day 2022, Euromontana and the MOVING project – an international and multidisciplinary initiative to strengthen the resilience of mountain products’ value chains – published a booklet entitled *Women move Europe’s mountains*. The publication is a compilation of 13 testimonies from women who either live in mountain areas of Europe or work to make them more sustainable and future-oriented. Their stories bring together the voices, narratives and perspectives of women operating in several fields that are important to the future of mountains.

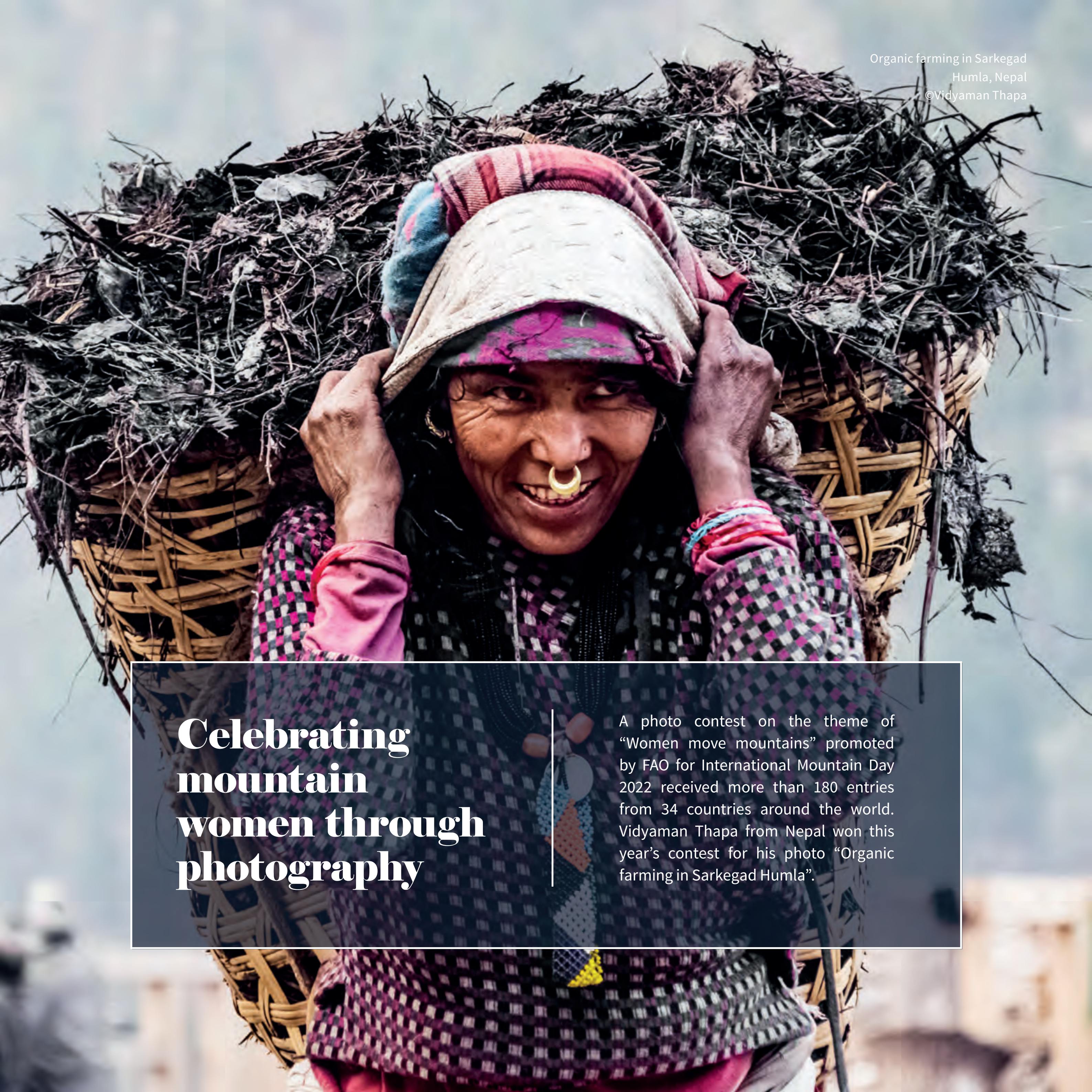
Woman farmer in Valle d’Aosta, Italy
©Roberto Cilenti

WOMEN MOVE
EUROPE'S
MOUNTAINS
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2022
MOVING

Women move Europe’s mountains
©MOVING_Euromontana

Celebrating mountain women through photography

A photo contest on the theme of "Women move mountains" promoted by FAO for International Mountain Day 2022 received more than 180 entries from 34 countries around the world. Vidyaman Thapa from Nepal won this year's contest for his photo "Organic farming in Sarkegad Humla".



Organic farming in Sarkegad
Humla, Nepal
©Vidyaman Thapa

A man taking a photo at the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership ©Brittany Mumma

Communication and knowledge management

> “Managing knowledge among Mountain Partnership members is a pillar of our work. We create, collect and share relevant information to raise awareness of mountain issues.”

Sara Manuelli
Advocacy and Outreach Officer,
Mountain Partnership Secretariat

A sunny day in the mountains of Albania
©Petrit Imeraj

Mountain Partnership by numbers:

Social media, Peak to Peak and website analytics

The MPS implemented a communications strategy for International Mountain Day 2022 (11 December) generating the following results:

More than 4 250 tweets using the hashtag #MountainsMatter were delivered to over 92 million Twitter timelines. The hashtag was mentioned 2 550 times in related posts, potentially reaching 78 million users. FAO's social media content on IMD on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn was also picked up and more than 177 multilingual posts were published.

MP Website

44 639 total users in 2021
48 909 total users in 2022

IMD Website

17 670 total users in 2022

LinkedIn

Created in 2022
960 followers in 2022
2 400 total reactions

Instagram

1 695 followers in 2022
2 227 followers in 2023

31.4 % increase in followers

16 742 total reach in 2022

Facebook

8 254 followers in Jan 2022
8 960 followers in Jan 2023

8.5 % increase in followers

103 991 total reach in 2022

Twitter

2 150 followers in Jan 2022
2 700 followers in Jan 2023

30.2 % increase in followers

232 200 total impressions in 2022
44 200 total impressions on IMD 2022

2022 content highlights

Videos

Women move mountains: artisans collaborate with fashion designer Stella Jean in the Peruvian Andes (English; subtitles available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Russian and Spanish) - long and short social media versions

International Mountain Day 2022 photo contest promotional video (English)

GROW Summer School 2022 promotional video (English)

Mountain Partnership general information social media video (English)

International Year of Sustainable Development social media video (English)

Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership promotional video (English)

Publications

Mountain Partnership Secretariat Annual Report 2021 (English)

International Mountain Day 2022 fact sheet: Women move mountains (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)

Vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity infographic (English)

Mountain women of the world – Challenges, resilience and collective power (English)

The International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022: An opportunity to promote action for mountains (English) – published by Frontiers

International Mountain Day 2022 promo video
©Mountain Partnership Secretariat

fao.org
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From the mountains of Kyrgyzstan to the catwalks of Milan in FAO journal Unasylva (English)

United Nations mountain agenda, the Mountain Partnership and related regional mechanisms chapter contribution published by the Grassroots Institute (English)

Inclusive and resilient mountain food systems: Opportunities and best practices – IYM 2022 policy brief (English)

Keeping our mountains plastic waste-free – IYM2022 policy brief (English)

Ecosystem restoration in the mountains – IYM2022 policy brief (English)

Mountain observations: Monitoring, data, and information for science, policy, and society – IYM2022 policy brief (English)

Mountains and heritage-making – IYM2022 policy brief (English)

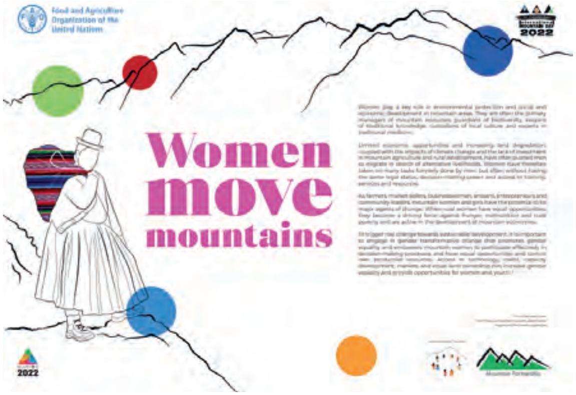
Harnessing the socio-ecological potential of mountain biosphere reserves for biodiversity conservation – IYM2022 policy brief (English)

IMD 2022 editorial (English) – published in international news outlets

IMD 2022 Global press release (Arabic,Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)

Report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development (English)

UNGA resolution on sustainable mountain development (English)


Women move mountains
2022

International Mountain Day Factsheet English
© Mountain Partnership Secretariat

2022
International Year of
SUSTAINABLE
MOUNTAIN
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY BRIEF

Left: Mountain Observations – Policy brief
©Mountain Partnership Secretariat; GEO Mountains

Mountain Partnership Secretariat
Annual Report 2021

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT
ANNUAL REPORT 2021
Mountain Partnership

> “Losing mountain forests means losing our art, culture and history, as these mountains represent our identity, of who we are and what we believe in.”

Pius Matunge
Founder and Director, Tengeneza Generation

Three-horned chameleon
©David Masanja

Members’ voices:
Tengeneza Generation

Tengeneza Generation (TEG) became a member in January 2022, becoming the first non-governmental organization in the United Republic of Tanzania to join the MP. The name Tengeneza means ‘building’ and in this sense refers to building a generation that represents the needs and desires of young people. The organization works with youth as champions of change, using innovative ways to help communities value the ecosystems around them. Through the determination and efforts of TEG staff and partners, they have increased the socioeconomic status of many communities in the Uluguru Mountains through ecotourism initiatives and capacity development.

Mountain education and capacity development

Graduates of the 2022 IPROMO course

©Adel Ramezani

To enhance capacity building and promote knowledge transfer and expertise related to different aspects of sustainable mountain development, each year the MPS organizes summer courses, workshops and training sessions in synergy with other organizations and initiatives.

> “Opportunities such as this are a must for people who care about mountain people, who care about the environment and who care about learning more, so that we take what we have learned home to implement.”

Nomcebo Dlamini
Lecturer and PhD candidate, University of the Free State, South Africa

Examining challenges and opportunities for sustainable mountain development

As in-person classes resumed for the annual IPROMO summer school, 30 participants from 20 countries gathered in northern Italy from 27 June to 11 July. In celebration of IYM2022 and the fifteenth anniversary of IPROMO, this year's course focused on the general theme of sustainable mountain development. Participants attended lectures on watershed management, climate change, soils, agrifood systems, forestry, innovation and sustainable tourism in mountains, and visited the Monte Rosa Glacier in the Alps, as well as Fort Bard, a mountain-top military fortress in the Valle d'Aosta that hosts the Museum of the Alps. The lectures and on-site training provided each participant with an opportunity to learn from experts drawn from academia, international organizations and the public and private sectors, and to engage in the network dedicated to mountain peoples and environments.

The annual IPROMO course is jointly organized by the MPS, the University of Turin and the University of Tuscia, both in Italy, with the high patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IPROMO 2022
Summer School
©FAO/Samantha Abear

Building capacity on implementing mountain participatory guarantee systems

In the framework of collaboration with the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, the MPS, together with IFOAM - Organics International, EcorNaturaSì and Slow Food International, supported a series of workshops at Terra Madre in Turin, Italy. Eleven delegates participated from eight producer organizations in Guatemala, Lesotho, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda and Uganda. The workshops aimed to increase delegates' knowledge of Slow Food's approaches and methodologies, as well as the MPP initiative, and show them how to implement participatory guarantee systems in their own countries.

Officers learn to asses land degradation in mountains

The MPS conducted training in "Estimating land degradation in mountain regions". The course had five modules: two online sessions and a three-day workshop during the sixth Global Meeting of the MP. Participants from 11 countries were trained in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification methodology to assess land to determine the proportion of degraded land within total land area.

Sorghum harvesting ceremony in Lesotho
©Thulo Monyake

Selling vegetables in the local market, Nepal
©Sitaram Magar

Growing climate change resilience and adaptability through agrobiodiversity

The fifth annual “GROW – Agrobiodiversity in a changing climate” course was held online from 15–25 November, with the participation of 31 young professionals from 20 countries. The classes explored the importance of biodiversity in agriculture, with a particular focus on biodiversity’s role in enhancing cropping and farming systems’ resilience and adaptability to climate change. The sessions aimed to equip participants with the tools, knowledge and understanding required to enhance productivity and marketing strategies in sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

The GROW course was organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, in collaboration with Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Environmental Biology, the Alliance of Biodiversity International and the Center for Tropical Agriculture, and the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research. Technical support was provided by FAO.

Thai highland woman carefully
hand picks Assam tea
©Kesaraporn Sreechun

> “The GROW course gave us insights and multidisciplinary knowledge about agrobiodiversity and its fundamental role in strengthening the resilience and adaptation of farming systems to climate change.”

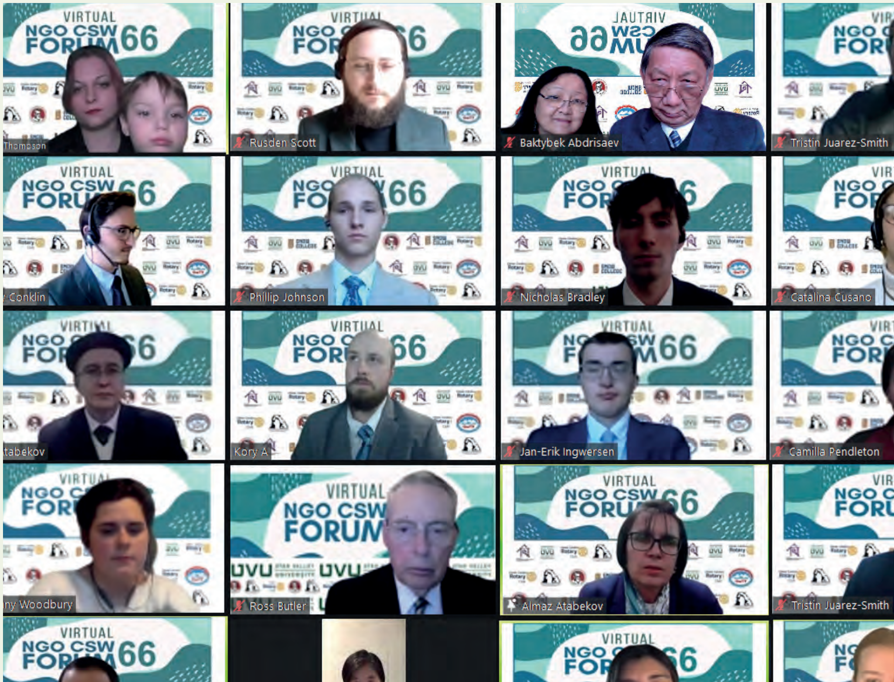
Emanuela-Adina Cocis,
Researcher, Centre of Mountain Economy
“CE-MONT”, Romania

Learning by doing – Utah students advocate for mountains

In celebration of IYM2022, the Utah International Mountain Forum – a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) – encouraged students to advocate for sustainable mountain development through the inclusive Student-Engaged Learning model. Through this model, students (in particular non-traditional learners, many of whom are women representing local communities) contribute to initiatives as a group, with faculty mentorship. As a result, the Utah International Mountain Forum advocated for mountain women at UVU's 13th International Mountain Day observation and during a parallel event hosted at the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, together with peers from Snow College, Utah; Osh Technological University, Kyrgyzstan; and fellow MP members such as the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce.

Education for sustainable development in the Carpathians

The Carpathian Convention promotes implementation of the UNESCO programme Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which places emphasis on education's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. The Convention strongly supports the integration of ESD into its activities and long-term vision for the Carpathians. To this end, it is establishing a Carpathian


VIRTUAL NGO CSW66 FORUM
Thompson
Rusden Scott
Baktybek Abdrisaev
Tristin Juarez-Smith
Conklin
Phillip Johnson
Nicholas Bradley
Catalina Cusano
tabekov
Kory A
Jan-Erik Ingwersen
Camilla Pendleton
ny Woodbury
Ross Butler
Almaz Atabekov
Tristin Juarez-Smith

Right: UVU side event at CSW66
©Phillip Johnson

VIRTUAL
NGO CSW FORUM 66
Stephan Atkinson
Ethan Wilks
Tariel Talantbek uulu
Connecting to audio

network of ESD experts, and integrating ESD into the priority topics of the Science for the Carpathians Network to facilitate this process. The second Carpathian ESD Seminar was held in Zakopane, Poland from 28–30 September, where best practices and the need for joint ESD activities in the Carpathian region were discussed. As a core ESD activity among Carpathian countries, a Carpathian Day will be celebrated to raise environmental awareness, particularly on the importance of the Carpathian Mountains, threats to their natural ecosystems, and the valuable services they provide for human well-being.

Top: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
©Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Euromontana publishes a report on mountain youth

In January 2022, Euromontana published a new Europe-wide report on mountain youth. In the framework of the European Year of Youth, this study aims to provide a better understanding of the needs and aspirations of young people in mountains. The report shares the views of 1 134 European mountain young people between 18 and 29 years from 18 EU and non-EU countries. It analyses young people's vision of the mountains of today and collects their ideas for the mountains of tomorrow. The report provides an overview of young people's level of satisfaction with their quality of life in mountains, and possible ways of better meeting their needs and combating the youth exodus.

Waterfall on the river Nikaj Merture, Albania
©Petrit Imeraj

Top: World Nature Forum
©Alessandra Lochmatter, Patrick Ngu and Janosch Hugi

Bottom: UNESCO-World Heritage Swiss Alps Glacier tour
©Stiftung UNESCO-Welterbe Schweizer Alpen Jungfrau-Aletsch

Learning about mountains through education programmes

Learning about mountains and sustainability in schools has been a key focus for implementing the Children's Call to Action – a document that gives voice to children's hopes and ideas for water and mountain ecosystem conservation – to protect mountain areas from the impact of climate change. The Zero Water Day Partnership (ZWDP) has launched the Mountain Protectors Training Programme and the "Saving the World's Water Towers Campaign" in the ZWDP schools network. Students have been building planetary health weather stations and printing 3D relief maps to visualize local ecosystem data and information. This has guided the development of projects and provided a common approach for sharing results and experiences with others from around the world. ZWDP has worked with officials from the UNESCO World Heritage Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch – the largest contiguous glacial area in the Alps – to enable students to learn about and witness the impact of climate change first hand.

Reinforcing the Partnership

FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo (left), FAO Director-General QU Dongyu (middle), and Andorran Minister for Foreign Affairs Maria Ubach (right) ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

What sets the Mountain Partnership apart from other mountain groups is the diversity of its stakeholders, from governments and civil society to the private sector, each offering rich experiences and different voices.

In 2022, the MPS welcomed new members with a diverse range of experiences and expertise, as well as pursued innovative alliances and strengthened existing ones, with the overall goal of promoting joint action and turning ideas into investments.

The work of the MPS would not be possible without the support of its donors. In 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of the Principality of Andorra confirmed its continued support to the MP through the secondment of a policy officer to the Secretariat. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture and FAO all continued to offer strategic and financial support to the Secretariat in 2022.

Developing more resilient economies in mountain and island communities

Under a renewed memorandum of understanding (MoU), FAO and Slow Food International agreed to work in a coordinated way on several initiatives to enhance agricultural value chains in fragile ecosystems. The MPS and Slow Food will provide technical assistance, capacity-building and communication support, and organize events to raise awareness. There will be specific initiatives to support small-scale artisan fisheries worldwide and coffee and rice producers in Madagascar. The MPS will also support other Slow Food initiatives, including The Cooks' Alliance, The Coffee Coalition and Slow Travel.

> “This partnership will help to enhance agricultural value chains and promote sustainable tourism in fragile ecosystems while preserving local communities' cultural diversity, traditional gastronomy and food biodiversity.”

Edie Mukiibi, President
Slow Food International

Guatemalan coffee producer sharing her experience at TerraMadre Forum in Turin
©Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Ulikan red rice farmer, The Philippines
©Lam-en D.Gonnay

Mountain forest in Italy
©FAO/Samantha Abear

FAO renews collaboration with University of Turin for IPROMO

In early 2022, FAO, Italy and the University of Turin (UNITO) stepped up efforts to strengthen capacities, raise awareness and provide technical support in the areas of food security and natural resource management. Through the renewal of an MoU for this collaboration, which started in 2007, FAO and UNITO extended the partnership for an additional five years, with the objective of promoting the development of capacities and dissemination of knowledge on topics related to sustainable mountain development.

A Kyrgyz woman embroidering shyrdak
©FAO/Mirbek Kadraliev

Providing grants to MP members for climate-resilient business models

In 2021, MP member Terra del Terzo Mondo donated EUR 120 000 to the MPS to be deposited in the Mountain Facility, operationalizing the funding mechanism. The first instalment was received in 2021 and the second in 2022. In 2022, the MPS announced a call for grant proposals for the first phase of the Mountain Facility to promote climate-resilient business models based on mountain biodiversity and sustainable local economies in mountain areas. Five proposals were selected from applicants in Ethiopia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership provides programmatic orientation to the MP, overseeing the preparation of a four-year strategy and a two-year workplan. The 18-member body guides the work of the MPS, as well as implementation of the Mountain Agenda and the achievements and impacts of their respective electoral groups.

Steering Committee members are elected to four-year terms by the various membership categories and regions and select a chair and vice-chairs at their first meeting. They meet at least once a year.

The following governments and organizations are serving on the 2022–2025 Steering Committee, which was elected during the sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership:

Donor organization to the MPS

- **Italy (Chair)**

Governments

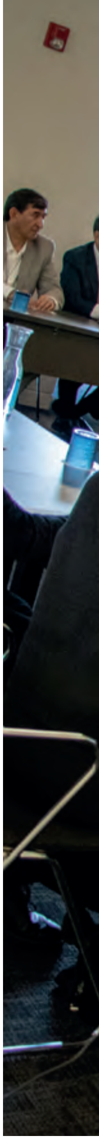
- Asia and the Pacific: Nepal
- Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan
- Europe: Andorra, Romania (alternate)
- Near East and North Africa: Yemen
- North and Central America and the Caribbean: **Dominican Republic (Vice Chair),** Guatemala (alternate)
- South America: Peru, Argentina (alternate)
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Uganda (alternate)

Host institution of the MPS

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Intergovernmental organization

- United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations University (alternate)



Major group organizations

- Asia and the Pacific: **Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (Vice Chair)**, Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (alternate)
- Central Asia: Tajik Social and Ecological Union, Rural Development Fund (alternate)
- Europe: Centro de Investigação de Montanha and Euromontana, Albanian Alps Alliance (alternate)
- Global civil society organization: GRID-Arendal, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (alternate)
- Near East and North Africa: Coalition Civile pour la Montagne, Mountain Environment Protection Society (alternate)
- North and Central America and the Caribbean: Aspen International Mountain Foundation, The Grassroots Institute (alternate)
- South America: Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña, Crescente Fértil (alternate)
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Foundation for Environment and Development

Top: Steering Committee meeting
©Matt TenBruggencate/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Left: Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership
©FAO/Allison Bozzi

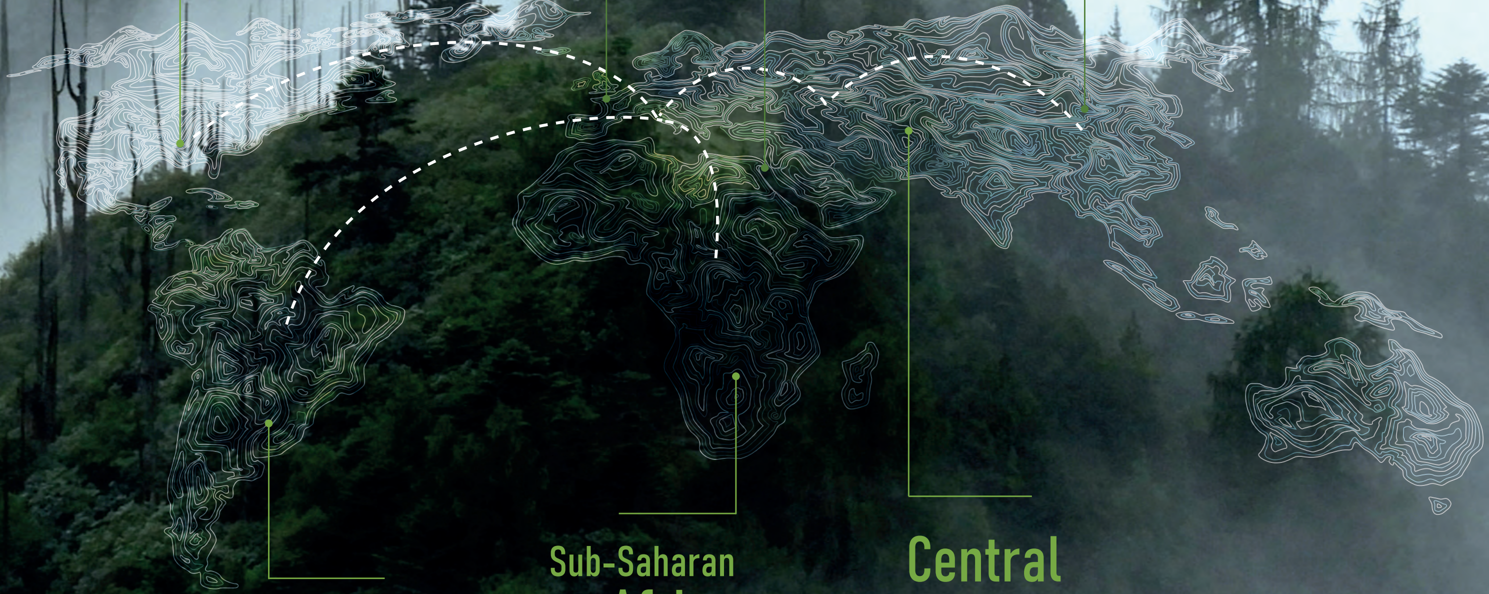
Mountain Partnership members

> My main goal as a representative of a community is to find ways for a more inclusive and dynamic mechanism of interaction with a more efficient communication channel.

Hugo Mantilla-Meluk
General Coordinator, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña, Steering Committee representative for South American Major Groups

Abies densa trees, Bhutan
©Dorji Phuntsho

At the end of December 2022, the following **472 governments and organizations** were members of the Mountain Partnership



North & Central America and the Caribbean

7 governments:
Costa Rica / Cuba / the Dominican Republic / Guatemala / Jamaica / Mexico / Panama
+ 39 NGOs
+ 6 subnational authorities

Europe

18 governments:
Andorra / Armenia / Austria / / Azerbaijan France / Georgia / Italy / Liechtenstein / Monaco / Romania / Serbia / Slovakia / Slovenia / Spain / Switzerland / Republic / of North Macedonia / Turkey / Ukraine + 100 NGOs
+ 3 subnational authorities

Near East and North Africa

6 governments:
Algeria / Iran / Jordan / Morocco / Tunisia / Yemen + 11 NGOs

Asia and the Pacific

11 governments:
Afghanistan / Bangladesh / Bhutan / India / Indonesia / Korea Forest Service / Nepal / Pakistan / Papua New Guinea / Philippines / Sri Lanka + 81 NGOs
+ 1 subnational authority

South America

7 governments:
Argentina / Bolivia / Chile / Colombia / Ecuador / Peru / Venezuela + 37 NGOs

Sub-Saharan Africa

12 governments:
Burundi / Cameroon / the Democratic Republic of the Congo / Ethiopia / Ghana / Guinea / Kenya / Lesotho / Madagascar / Malawi / Togo / Uganda / + 39 NGOs
+ 1 subnational authority

Central Asia

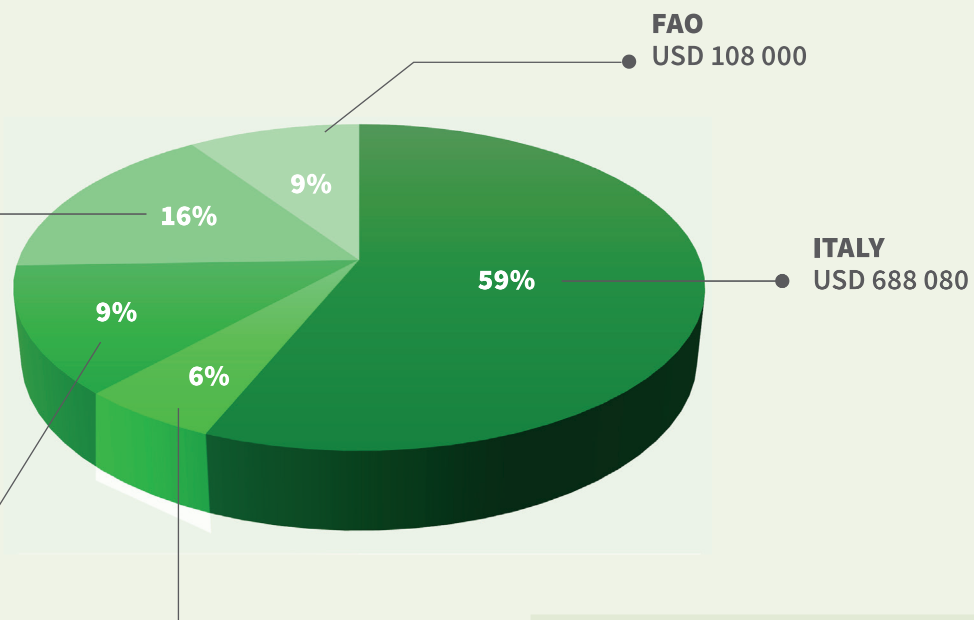
1 government:
Kyrgyzstan / Tajikistan
+ 39 NGOs
+ 2 subnational authorities

GLOBAL

19 intergovernmental organizations

31 global major groups

MPS financial overview



FAO
USD 108 000

ITALY
USD 688 080

ANDORRA
USD 191 328
Estimated for the secondment of professional staff

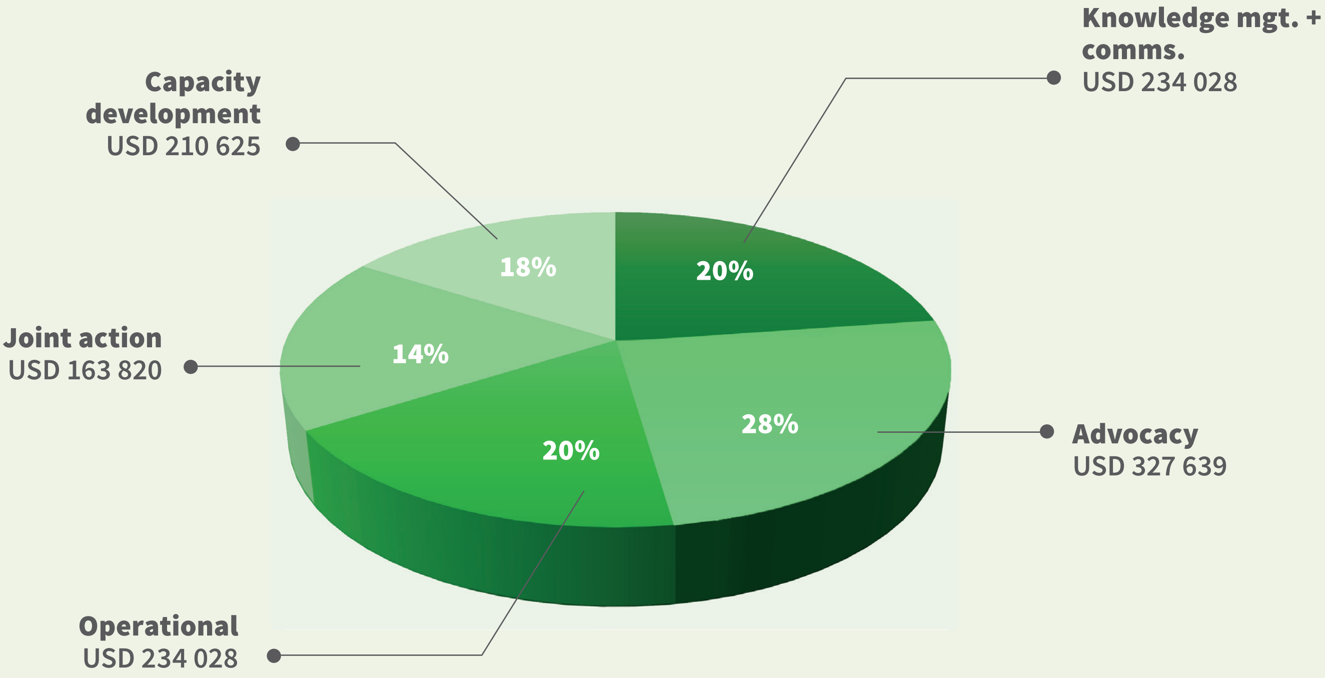
SWITZERLAND
USD 108 814
Contribution refers to January-June 2022

TERRA DEL TERZO MONDO ONLUS
USD 73 918
Second instalment of its contribution for the Mountain Facility

Resource partners
Italy, Switzerland, Andorra, FAO, Terra del Terzo Mondo Onlus

Total (100%):
USD 1 170 140

Functions



Financial overview charts
©FAO

Total (100%):
USD 1 170 140

Meet the Secretariat

The Mountain Partnership is supported by a Secretariat hosted at FAO and is sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of the Principality of Andorra, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, and FAO.

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Project Coordinator

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Advocacy and Outreach Officer

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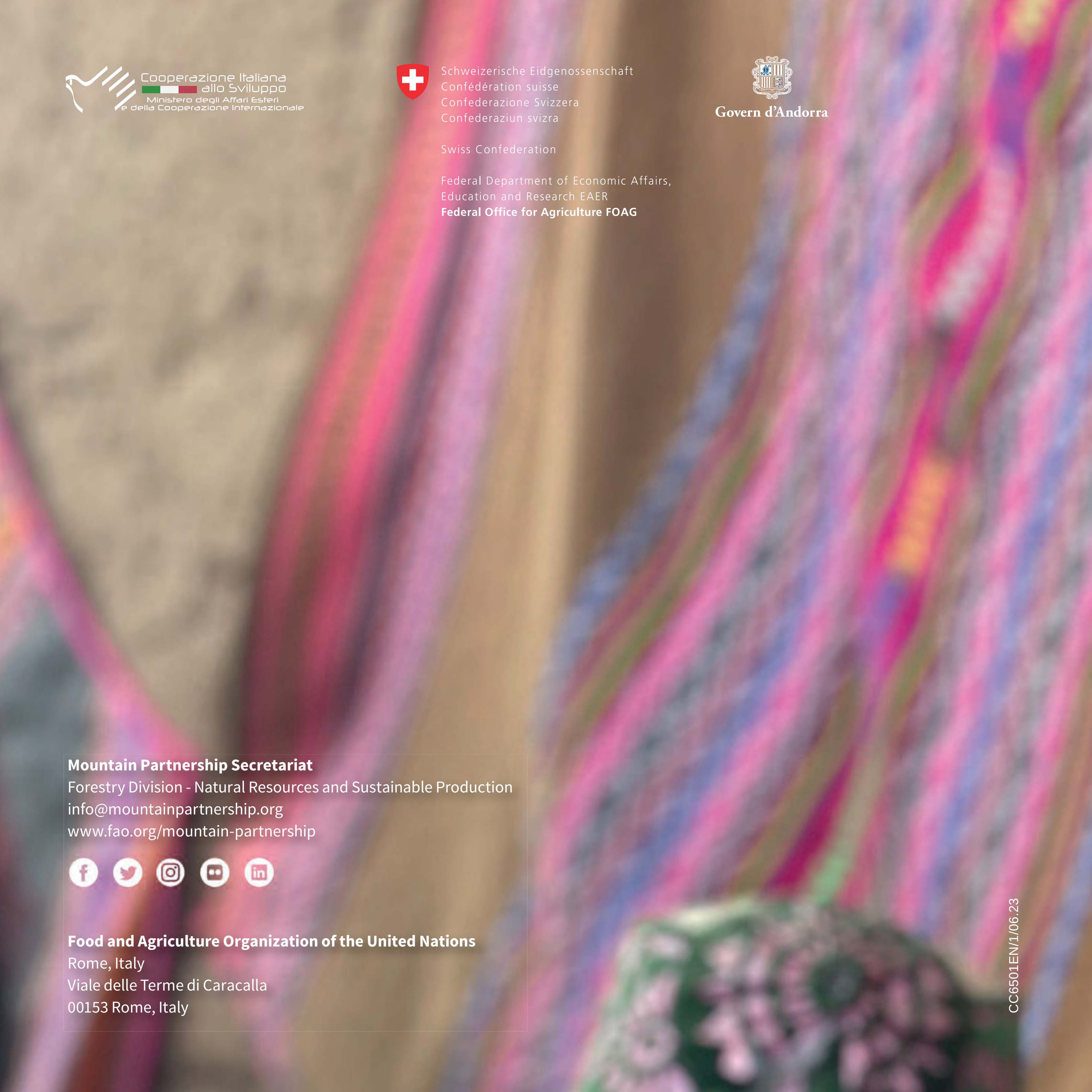
Carlo Murer
Value-chain Commercial Development Expert

Yuna Lee
Intern

An alpaca breeder in Peru
©Petra Dilthey



Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

Govern d'Andorra

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